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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Cary L. Bates, et al. : Date: June 22, 2005
Group Art Unit: 3627 : IBM Corporation
Examiner: A. Fischer : Intellectual Property Law
Serial No.: 09/848,573 : Dept. 917, Bldg. 006-1
Filed: May 3, 2001 : 3605 Highway 52 North
Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR : Rochester, MN 55901
OPERATING VENDING MACHINES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants request that the information listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be considered by the Office during the pendency of the above entitled application, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not constitute an admission that any information cited therein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b). In the interest of full and complete disclosure to the Office, some or all of the art cited herein may not be considered by Applicant(s) or the Undersigned to be material under the new standard of materiality defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b), enacted March 16, 1992, but may be material under the old standard of materiality defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a), last amended on November 28, 1988, or may merely be technical background which may be of interest to the Examiner. In accordance with

06/29/2005 WASFAW1 00000032 090465 09848573

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Serial No. 09/848,573
Docket No. ROC920010064US1

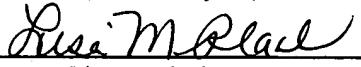
37 C.F.R. §1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) before a final action or notice of allowance. The filing fee of \$180.00 (for other than a small entity) is to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 09-0465.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

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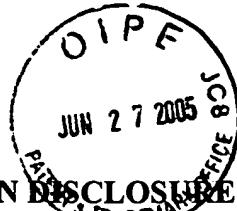
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Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 2

Application Number.: 09/848,573
 Filing Date: May 3, 2001
 First Named Inventor: Cary L. Bates
 Art Unit: 2632
 Examiner Name: A. Fischer
 Attorney Docket Number.: ROC920010064US1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	<u>Document Number</u> Number - Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns or Lines Where Relevant Passages or Figs. Appear
		US - 3703229	11-21-1972	Bowring, David	
		US - 6794634 B2	09-21-2004	Hair et al.	
		US - 6807532 B1	10-19-2004	Kolls, H. Brock	
		US - 6450407 B1	09-17-2002	Freeman et al.	
		US - 2002/0004690	01-10-2002	Paulicci et al.	
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		US - 5084845	01-28-1992	Levasseur, J	
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		US - 3826344	07-30-1974	Wahlberg, E	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	<u>Foreign Patent Document</u> Country ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ Code	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns or Lines Where Relevant Passages or Figs. Appear	T ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).

⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.